

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for delivering a parcel to a secure receptacle at a location, comprising the steps
2 of:
3 (a) carrying the parcel to the location;
4 (b) accessing the secure receptacle;
5 (c) placing the parcel within the secure receptacle;
6 (d) resecuring the secure receptacle; and
7 (e) automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after
8 the resecuring step.

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3 moving from the locked state to the unlocked state in response to an authorized identifier.

1 5. The method as in claim 4, wherein the authorized identifier is received from at least one
2 *DI* of: a magnetic strip card, a key pad, and a smart card.

1 6. The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an
2 *slp 2* unlocked state, and wherein the resecuring step includes the additional step of:
3 moving from the unlocked state to the locked state after receiving the parcel.

sub D1
1 The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in
2 response to the accessing step.

slp 3
1 ~~8. The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in~~
2 ~~response to the resecuring step.~~

sub D1
1 9. The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in
2 response to the registering step.

1 10. The method as in claim 1, where in the placing step is performed at night.

1 ~~11. A method for shipping a parcel from a secure receptacle at a location, comprising the~~
2 *slp 4* ~~steps of:~~

3 (a) arriving at the location of the secure receptacle;

4 (b) accessing the secure receptacle;

5 (c) removing the parcel from the secure receptacle; and

6 (d) registering the removal of the parcel from the secure receptacle after the removing
7 step wherein the registering step is in response to the removing step.

1 12. The method as in claim 11, including the additional steps of:

2 (a) labeling the parcel in preparation for shipping;

3 (b) placing the parcel in the secure receptacle; and

4 (c) notifying a carrier of the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after the
5 placing step and prior to the arriving step.

6 13. The method as in claim 12, including the additional step of securing the secure receptacle
7 after placing the parcel in the secure receptacle.

1 14. The method as in claim 12, wherein the labeling step includes the steps of:
2 generating a code containing recipient information; and
3 affixing the code on the parcel.

1 15. The method as in claim 12, wherein the notifying step includes the step of transmitting
2 the placement data to the remote location by a communication link.

1 16. The method as in claim 12, wherein the notifying step includes the steps of: accessing a
2 remote location by a communication link; and conveying placement data to the remote
3 location.

1 17. The method as in claim 12, including the additional step of dispatching a courier to the
2 location of the secure receptacle in response to the notifying step.

1 18. The method as in claim 12, including the additional step selected from the group of
2 electronically measuring the parcel dimensions and
electronically measuring the parcel weight.

1 19. The method as in claim 11, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an
2 unlocked state, wherein the accessing step includes the additional step of:
moving from the locked state to the unlocked state in response to an authorized identifier.

1 20. The method as in claim 19, wherein the authorized identifier is received from an access
2 device.

1 21. The method as in claim 19, wherein the authorized identifier is received from at least one
2 of: a magnetic strip card, a key pad, and a smart card.

1 29. A system for delivering and shipping a parcel, comprising:

2 a secure receptacle for receiving the parcel;

3 a scanner positioned within the secure receptacle to scan information on the parcel; and

4 a communication device connected to the output of the scanner.

1 30. The system as in claim 29, wherein the secure receptacle further comprises:

2 a platform for holding the parcel;

3 a door for selectively providing access to the platform; and

4 a lock for securing the door when the door is closed.

1 31. The system as in claim 30, wherein the lock secures the door in response to the door
closing.

2 32. The system as in claim 30, further comprising an access device wherein the lock is
released in response to a signal from the access device.

1 33. The system as in claim 32, wherein the access device is configured to receive at least one
2 of: a magnetic strip card, a code from a key pad, and a smart card and issues the signal in
3 response to the magnetic strip card reader, the code from the key pad, and the smart card.

1 34. The system as in claim 29, wherein the communication device transmits the information
-2 received from the scanner to a remote location in response to the lock securing the door.

1 35. The system as in claim 29, further comprising a button connected to the communication
2 device for initiating a communication to a remote location.

1 36. The system as in claim 29, further comprising a scale for registering the weight of the
2 parcel.

1 37. The system as in claim 29, further comprising a ruler for registering the dimension of the
2 parcel.

38. The system as in claim 29, wherein the secure receptacle has a waterproof shell.

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